Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Janet Yellen Secretary of the Treasury U.S. Department of the Treasury 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20220

Mr. Stephen Milligan
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U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
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July 19, 2021

Dear Secretary Yellen and Mr. Milligan,

We are asking the Department of the Treasury to issue further guidance clarifying certain eligible expenditures under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act. Specifically, we are asking that the Department of the Treasury include an explicit reference including vehicles as an eligible use of funds in any subsequent guidance released after the May 17th Interim Final Rule. This would be consistent with prior guidance and help state, tribal, and local partners as they plan how to best use these funds.

On January 15, 2021, the Department of the Treasury <u>re-published</u> to the Federal Register in final form the guidance it previously made available on its website regarding the Coronavirus Relief Fund for States, tribal governments, and certain eligible local governments. The Coronavirus Relief Fund is the \$150 billion program established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), which was designed to provide payments by Treasury to the aforementioned governments.

The re-published guidance listed many Nonexclusive Examples of Eligible Expenditures, which included medical expenses such as "emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19." The guidance also provided answers to several frequently asked questions clarifying eligible expenditures under the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Question 58 asked if payments from the Fund may be used for real property acquisition and

governments use the Fiscal Relief Funds, a goal that is hindered by the lack of explicit guidance in several areas.

We implore the Department of the Treasury to issue updated guidance for the Fiscal Recovery Funds that explicitly specifies that "acquiring or improving real property and of acquiring equipment (e.g., vehicles)," is an allowable expenditure. As noted above, this would be in line with prior guidance for similar funds, and it is our opinion that state, local, tribal, and territorial governments would more readily use these Fiscal Recovery Funds for this and other necessary purposes if Treasury were to unequivocally include such language in future guidance.

Signed,

Representative Scott Fitzgerald (WI-05)

Representative Gwen Moore (WI-04)